

Appl. No. : **10/762,640**
Filed : **January 22, 2004**

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 10, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 1-42 remain pending. Claim 2 has been amended, and new Claims 3-42 have been added.

In the Office Action mailed June 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 for obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patents Nos. 6,712,656 and 6,095,879. The Examiner also objected to Claim 2 for lack of antecedent basis for the claim term "said rib."

Terminal Disclaimer

Applicant submits herewith an executed Terminal Disclaimer which obviates the Examiner's rejections for double patenting.

Claim 2

Applicant has amended Claim 2 in a manner which is believed to address the Examiner's objection.

New Claims 3-42

Applicant submits herein new Claims 3-42 for consideration by the Examiner.

Information Disclosure Statement Mailed April 21, 2004

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement mailed on April 21, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the references listed in the IDS of April 21.

A check of the USPTO's electronic records reveals that the April 21 IDS, and copies of the foreign and non-patent documents cited therein, were present in the file for this application as of November 9, 2004. Accordingly, Applicant has not submitted any additional copies of these materials with the present amendment.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art shows or teaches. Although amendments have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby. Rather, the amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice to presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims on the subject matter affected thereby.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, Mark J. Kertz at (949) 721-6318 to resolve such issue(s) promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Nov. 10, 2004

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